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Office of Professional Responsibility

Bluebonnet Detention Facility Unannounced Compliance Inspection 2025-004-026

December 10-12, 2024



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U.S. Department of Homeland Security U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Professional Responsibility ICE Inspections Washington, DC 20536-5501

Office of Detention Oversight Unannounced Compliance Inspection 2025-004-026

Enforcement and Removal Operations ERO Dallas Field Office

Bluebonnet Detention Facility Anson, Texas

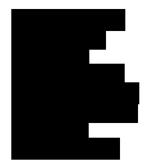
December 10-12, 2024

UNANNOUNCED COMPLIANCE INSPECTION of the BLUEBONNET DETENTION FACILITY Anson, Texas

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COMPLIANCE INSPECTION TEAM MEMBERS



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FACILITY OVERVIEW

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) Office of Detention Oversight (ODO) conducted an unannounced compliance inspection of the Bluebonnet Detention Facility (BDF) in Anson, Texas, from December 10 to 12, 2024.¹ The facility opened in December 2019 and is owned by Jones County and operated by the Management & Training Corporation (MTC). The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees at BDF in December 2019 under the oversight of ERO's Field Office Director in Dallas (ERO Dallas). The facility operates under the Performance-Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS) 2011 (Revised 2016).

A warden handles daily facility operations and manages

support personnel. MTC provides food services and medical care, and Union Supply Group provides commissary services at the facility. The facility was accredited by the American Correctional Association in January 2022 and the National Commission on Correctional Health Care in June 2022. In August 2022, BDF was audited for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and was DHS PREA certified.

Capacity and Population Statistics	Quantity
ICE Bed Capacity. ²	
Average ICE Population ³	
Adult Male Population (as of December 10, 2024)	
Adult Female Population (as of December 10, 2024). ⁴	

During its last rated inspection, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, ODO found 2 deficiencies in the Funds and Personal Property standard.

¹ This facility holds male and female detainees with low, medium-low, medium-high, and high security classification levels for periods greater than 72 hours.

² Data Source: ERO Custody Management Division Authorized Facility List as of December 9, 2024.

³ Ibid.

⁴ The ERO Custody Management Division Facility List shows the facility holds only male detainees; however, ODO confirmed while on sight, the facility also holds female detainees.

UNANNOUNCED COMPLIANCE INSPECTION PROCESS

ODO conducts oversight inspections of ICE detention facilities with an average daily population (ADP) of 10 or more, and where detainees are housed for over 72 hours, to assess compliance with ICE national detention standards. While these inspections focus on facility compliance with detention standards that directly affect detainee life, health, safety, and/or well-being, in FY 2024 ODO added additional standards to the scope of each full inspection to ensure ODO inspects every standard at each facility at least once every other year.⁵

ODO identifies violations of ICE detention standards, ICE policies, or operational procedures, as "deficiencies." ODO highlights instances when the facility resolves deficiencies prior to completion of the ODO inspection. Where applicable, these corrective actions are annotated with "C" under the *Compliance Inspection Findings* section of this report.

In FY 2022, ODO began conducting special reviews of under 72-hour ICE detention facilities with an ADP of 1 or more detainees and over 72-hour ICE detention facilities with an ADP of 1 to 9 detainees. Additionally, ODO began conducting unannounced inspections of ICE detention facilities, regardless of ADP of detainees, as well as reviews of ICE special/emerging detention facilities/programs. As such, these facility inspections will result in an ODO Inspection Compliance Rating; however, for facilities that are not contractually obligated to an ICE NDS, those ratings will be for ERO's informational purposes. ODO will conduct a complete review of several core standards, in accordance with the facility's contractually required ICE NDS or in accordance with the ICE NDS listed in the current ERO Custody Management Division Authorized Facility List for facilities that are not contractually obligated to an ICE NDS, which may include but are not limited to Medical Care/Health Care, Medical Care (Women)/Health Care (Females), Significant Self-harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention, Hunger Strikes, Food Service, Environmental Health and Safety, Special Management Units (SMU) or Hold Rooms (if the facility does not have an SMU), Use of Force and Restraints/Use of Physical Control Measures, and Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention.

Upon completion of each special review or unannounced inspection, ODO conducts a closeout briefing with facility and local ERO officials to discuss preliminary findings. A summary of these findings is shared with ERO management officials. Thereafter, ODO provides ICE leadership with a final compliance inspection report to: (i) assist ERO in developing and initiating uniform corrective action plans (UCAPs); and (ii) provide senior executives with an independent assessment of facility operations. ODO's findings inform ICE executive management in their decision-making to better allocate resources across the agency's entire detention inventory.

⁵ ODO reviews the facility's compliance with selected standards in their entirety.

FINDINGS BY PERFORMANCE-BASED NATIONAL DETENTION STANDARDS 2011 (REVISED 2016) MAJOR CATEGORIES

PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016) Standards Inspected. ^{6,7,8}	Deficiencies
Part 1 - Safety	
Emergency Plans	0
Environmental Health and Safety	0
Transportation (By Land)	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 2 - Security	
Admission and Release	0
Custody Classification System	0
Funds and Personal Property	0
Hold Rooms in Detention Facilities	0
Key and Lock Control	0
Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention	0
Special Management Units	0
Staff-Detainee Communication	0
Tool Control	0
Use of Force and Restraints	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 4 - Care	
Food Service	0
Medical Care	0
Medical Care (Women)	0
Significant Self-harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention	0
Terminal Illness, Advance Directives and Death	0
Disability Identification, Assessment, and Accommodation	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 5 - Activities	
Recreation	0
Visitation	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 6 - Justice	
Detainee Handbook	0

⁶ For greater detail on ODO's findings, see the *Unannounced Compliance Inspection Findings* section of this report. ⁷ Beginning in FY 2024, ODO instituted a process of rotating all standards every other year. As a result, some

standards may not be present in all inspections.

⁸ During an unannounced inspection, ODO will review a facility's compliance with at least 10 individual standards; however, unannounced full inspections will include a review of the same standards as announced full inspections.

Grievance System	0	
Sub-Total	0	
Part 7 - Administration and Management		
Staff Training	0	
Sub-Total	0	
Total Deficiencies	0	

DETAINEE RELATIONS

ODO interviewed 29 detainees who each voluntarily agreed to participate. ODO attempted to interview five additional detainees; however, all five detainees declined ODO's request for an interview. None of the detainees made allegations of discrimination, mistreatment, or abuse. Most detainees reported satisfaction with facility services except for the concern listed below.

Significant Self-harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention: One detainee stated he had thoughts of harming himself after a delay in his court hearing.

• <u>Action Taken</u>: ODO immediately ended the interview, informed facility staff and ERO Dallas staff of the detainee's comments and observed facility staff escort the detainee to medical for a mental health evaluation. ODO confirmed the facility placed the detainee on one-on-one suicide observation status after receiving a positive suicide assessment from the mental health provider (MHP) and reviewed notifications sent to administrative staff and ERO Dallas staff. On December 12, 2024, the MHP reevaluated the detainee, removed him from one-on-one suicide observation, and placed him in the Medical Observation Unit (MOU) for step down. On December 16, 2024, ODO confirmed with ERO Dallas staff the detainee returned to general population from the MOU on December 13, 2024, after reevaluation by the MHP and instruction by facility staff on how to submit a sick call request. ODO confirmed with ERO Dallas staff the detainee received a merit hearing on December 4, 2024, when he requested to submit additional evidence for his case. The judge allowed the submission of the evidence but required it be translated into English and rescheduled the hearing for February 5, 2025.

UNANNOUNCED COMPLIANCE INSPECTION FINDINGS

ODO identified no findings during the inspection.

CONCLUSION

During this inspection, ODO assessed the facility's compliance with 24 standards under PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016) and found the facility in compliance with all 24 standards. Since BDF's last rated inspection in December 2023, the facility's compliance with PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016) has trended upward. BDF went from 2 deficiencies and 1 deficient standard in December 2023 to no deficiencies and no deficient standards during this most recent full inspection. BDF completed its UCAP for its last inspection in December 2023, which likely resolved ODO's previously cited deficiencies. ODO recommends ERO Dallas work with the facility to ensure the facility maintains its high-level of compliance with PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016).

Compliance Inspection Results Compared	FY 2024 Full Inspection (PBNDS 2011) (Revised 2016)	FY 2025 Full Inspection (PBNDS 2011) (Revised 2016)
Standards Reviewed	29	24
Deficient Standards	1	0
Overall Number of Deficiencies	2	0
Priority Component Deficiencies	0	0
Repeat Deficiencies	0	0
Areas Of Concern	0	0
Corrective Actions	0	0
Facility Rating	Superior	Superior



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